

United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/014,509	12/14/2001	Masayoshi Suzuki	382684/00	3599	
75	90 07/13/2004 EXAMINER		INER		
McGinn & Gibb, PLLC 8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200			ERDEM	ERDEM, FAZLI	
Vienna, VA 2	•		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
,			2826	2826	
			DATE MAILED: 07/12/2004		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

· : •	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
	10/014,509	MASAYOSHI ET AL.				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	Fazli Erdem	2826				
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply						
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).						
Status						
1)⊠ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>23 April 2004</u> .						
<u> </u>						
3) Since this application is in condition for allowan) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is					
closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.						
Disposition of Claims						
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>4,5,7,8,11-13,15,17 and 18</u> is/are pending in the application.						
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.						
5)⊠ Claim(s) <u>4,7,8,11-13 and 17</u> is/are allowed.						
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>5,15 and 18</u> is/are rejected.						
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.						
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or	election requirement.					
Application Papers						
9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.						
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.						
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).						
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).						
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.						
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). 						
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.						
Attachment(s)						
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) Interview Summary (
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date	Paper No(s)/Mail Dat 5) Notice of Informal Pa 6) Other:					

Application/Control Number: 10/014,509

Art Unit: 2826

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

- 1. Claims 4,7,8,11-13 and 17 allowed.
- 2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Prior art failed to establish the protrusions and the pixel electrodes in the required manner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 5, 15 and 18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takizawa et al. (6,573,964).

Regarding Claims 5, 15, and 18, Takizawa et al. disclose a multidomain vertically aligned liquid crystal display device where in Fig. 3, substrate 20 and 21, liquid

Application/Control Number: 10/014,509

Art Unit: 2826

crystal layer between the substrates, protrusion 11 on substrate 21 opposing the

pixel electrode 1 located on substrate 20. The protrusion 11 on substrate 21 is

located the center of the pixel electrode 1.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Fazli Erdem whose telephone number is (703) 305-3868.

The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (703) 308-6601. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FΕ

July 10, 2004

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Page 3